WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method implementable on an encoder for adjusting a coding threshold for encoding a region of an image, wherein the coding threshold determines whether the region should be coded, comprising:

encoding, at a first time, a first image representation of the region using first encoding parameters generated by the encoder;

encoding, at a second time later than the first time, a second image representation of the region using second encoding parameters generated by the encoder;

assessing at least the first and second encoding parameters to determine whether the image is likely stationary; and

if the image is likely stationary, adjusting the coding threshold in the encoder for at least a portion of the region.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second image representations comprise a matrix of quantized discrete cosine transform coefficients.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second encoding parameters respectively comprise at least first and second motion vectors.

4.   The method of claim 3, wherein assessing to determine whether the image is likely stationary comprises determining whether the first and second motion vectors are substantially zero.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second encoding parameters respectively comprise at least first and second quantization parameters.

6.   The method of claim 5, wherein assessing to determine whether the image is likely stationary comprises determining whether the first and second quantization parameters are respectively below first and second quantization parameter thresholds.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second encoding parameters respectively comprise first and second motion vectors and first and second quantization parameters.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein assessing to determine whether the image is likely stationary comprises:

determining whether the first and second motion vectors are substantially zero; and

determining whether the first and second quantization parameters are respectively below first and second quantization parameter thresholds.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein adjusting the coding threshold comprises adjusting the coding threshold to decrease the likelihood of encoding the region at the second time.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein adjusting the coding threshold comprises increasing the coding threshold.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

encoding, a third time prior to the first time, a third image representation of the region using third encoding parameters generated by the encoder; and

assessing at least the first, second, and third encoding parameters to determine whether the image is likely stationary.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second encoding parameters respectively comprise whether the first and second image representations of the region are intercoded, and wherein assessing the first and second encoding parameters comprises an assessment whether the first and second image representations of the region are intercoded.

13.   A method implementable on an encoder for adjusting a coding threshold for encoding a region of an image, wherein the coding threshold determines whether the region should be coded, comprising:

encoding, at a first time, a first image representation of the region using at least a first quantization parameter and a first motion vector generated by the encoder;

encoding, at a second time later than the first time, a second image representation of the region using at least a second quantization parameter and a second motion vector generated by the encoder; and

adjusting the coding threshold in the encoder for at least a portion of the region if the first and second motion vectors are substantially zero and if the first and second quantization parameters are respectively less than first and second quantization parameter thresholds.

14.   The method of claim 13, wherein the first and second image representations comprise a matrix of quantized discrete cosine transform coefficients.

15.   The method of claim 13, wherein the first and second quantization parameter thresholds are the same.

16.   The method of claim 13, wherein adjusting the coding threshold comprises adjusting the coding threshold to decrease the likelihood of encoding the region at the second time.

17.   The method of claim 13, wherein adjusting the coding threshold comprises increasing the coding threshold.

18.   The method of claim 13, further comprising:

encoding, a third time prior to the first time, a third image representation of the region using at least a third quantization parameter and a third motion vector generated by the encoder; and

adjusting the coding threshold in the encoder for the region if the first, second, and third motion vectors are substantially zero and if the first, second, and third quantization parameters are respectively less than first, second, and third quantization parameter thresholds.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the first, second, and third quantization parameter thresholds are the same.

20. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

encoding, at the first time, the first image representation of the region using intercoding;

encoding, at the second time, the second image representation of the region using intercoding; and

adjusting the coding threshold in the encoder for at least a portion of the region if the first and second image representations are intercoded.

21. A method implementable on a decoder capable of displaying a region of an image on a display, comprising:

receiving from an encoder, at a first time, a first image representation of the region including first encoding parameters generated by the encoder;

receiving from an encoder, at a second time later than the first time, a second image representation of the region including second encoding parameters generated by the encoder;

assessing at the decoder whether the image is likely stationary using at least the first and second encoding parameters; and

if the image is likely stationary, not updating at least a portion of the region on the display.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the first and second image representations comprise a matrix of quantized discrete cosine transform coefficients.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein the first and second encoding parameters respectively comprise at least first and second motion vectors.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein assessing to determine whether the image is likely stationary comprises determining whether the first and second motion vectors are substantially zero.

25. The method of claim 21, wherein the first and second encoding parameters respectively comprise at least first and second quantization parameters.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein assessing to determine whether the image is likely stationary comprises determining whether the first and second quantization parameters are respectively below first and second quantization parameter thresholds.

27. The method of claim 21, wherein the first and second encoding parameters respectively comprise first and second motion vectors and first and second quantization parameters.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein assessing to determine whether the image is likely stationary comprises:

        determining whether the first and second motion vectors are substantially zero; and

        determining whether the first and second quantization parameters are respectively below first and second quantization parameter thresholds.

29. The method of claim 21, further comprising:

        receiving from the encoder, a third time prior to the first time, a third image representation of the region including third encoding parameters generated by the encoder; and

        assessing at least the first, second, and third encoding parameters to determine whether the image is likely stationary.

30.　　The method of claim 21, wherein the first and second encoding parameters respectively comprise whether the first and second image representations of the region are intercoded, and wherein assessing the first and second encoding parameters comprises an assessment whether the first and second image representations of the region are intercoded.

31.　　The method of claim 21, wherein assessing at the decoder whether the image is likely stationary further comprises whether an error metric for the second image representation of the region is below a threshold.

32.　　A method implementable on an encoder capable of transmitting image information to a decoder, comprising:

　　　　encoding, at a first time, a first image representation of a region of the image using first encoding parameters generated by the encoder;

　　　　encoding, at a second time later than the first time, a second image representation of the region using second encoding parameters generated by the encoder;

　　　　assessing at least the first and second encoding parameters to determine whether the image is likely stationary; and

　　　　if the image is likely stationary, sending a no code signal to a decoder for at least a portion of the region.

33.　　The method of claim 32, wherein the first and second image representations comprise a matrix of quantized discrete cosine transform coefficients.

34.　　The method of claim 32, wherein the first and second encoding parameters respectively comprise at least first and second motion vectors.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein assessing to determine whether the image is likely stationary comprises determining whether the first and second motion vectors are substantially zero.

36. The method of claim 32, wherein the first and second encoding parameters respectively comprise at least first and second quantization parameters.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein assessing to determine whether the image is likely stationary comprises determining whether the first and second quantization parameters are respectively below first and second quantization parameter thresholds.

38. The method of claim 32, wherein the first and second encoding parameters respectively comprise first and second motion vectors and first and second quantization parameters.

39. The method of claim 38, wherein assessing to determine whether the image is likely stationary comprises:

    determining whether the first and second motion vectors are substantially zero; and

    determining whether the first and second quantization parameters are respectively below first and second quantization parameter thresholds.

40. The method of claim 32, further comprising:

    encoding, a third time prior to the first time, a third image representation of the region using third encoding parameters generated by the encoder; and

    assessing at least the first, second, and third encoding parameters to determine whether the image is likely stationary.

41. The method of claim 32, wherein the first and second encoding parameters respectively comprise whether the first and second image representations of the region are intercoded, and wherein assessing the first and second encoding parameters comprises

an assessment whether the first and second image representations of the block are intercoded.